



Australian Government

A world map composed of a grid of small hexagons. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean. Australia is highlighted in a bright yellow color, while the rest of the map is in shades of gray. The text is overlaid on the map.

PARTNERING **WITH**  
AUSTRALIA ON INNOVATION,  
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

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# PARTNERING **WITH** AUSTRALIA ON INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH





## Introduction

Innovation is rightly recognised as vital to the world's future prosperity and wellbeing. The Australian Government and the nation's businesses, universities and research institutions are all committed to capitalising on Australia's innovative capacity - to break new ground and to respond to the challenges facing our country, the region and the world - in collaboration with partners from across the globe.

This booklet outlines the range of opportunities to invest in and collaborate with Australian organisations on science, research and innovation. The best innovations are born out of collaboration and Australia is looking to build its links internationally to deliver on its vision of an open and entrepreneurial economy.



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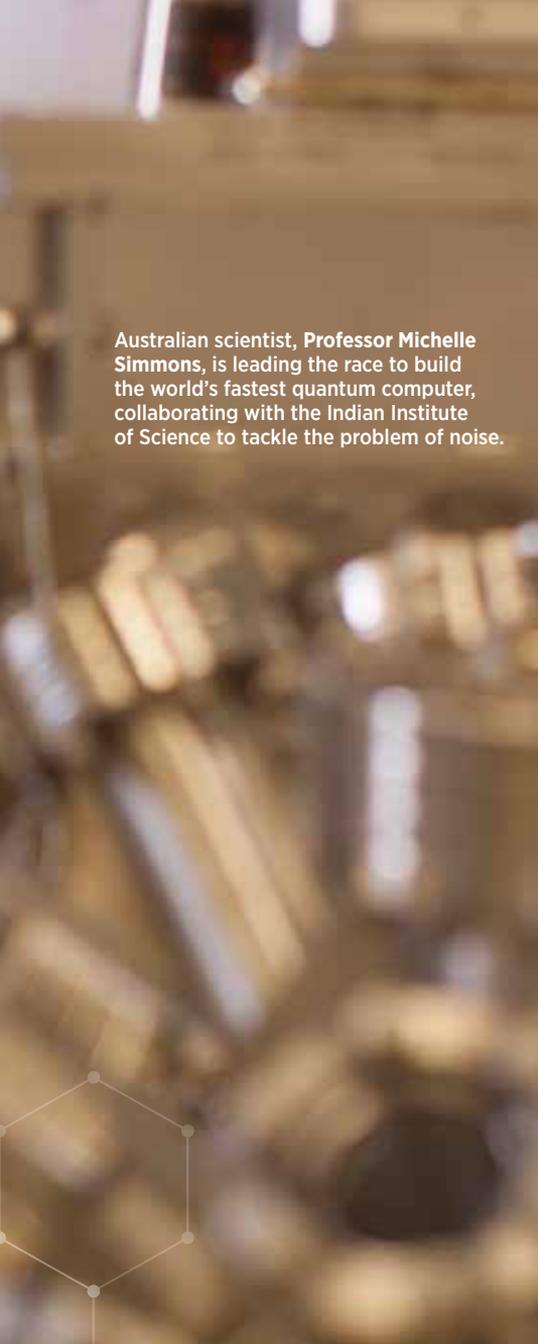




### *Our strengths*

- Strong education and research sectors
- World-leading public research agencies
- Cutting-edge research infrastructure
- Innovative businesses expanding their impact globally
- Trade and investment base for international companies doing business in our region





Australian scientist, **Professor Michelle Simmons**, is leading the race to build the world's fastest quantum computer, collaborating with the Indian Institute of Science to tackle the problem of noise.

## Benefits of collaborating with Australia

International collaboration supports the exchange of knowledge, helping to bring diversity in perspective and approach to solving the challenges of our time, and generating new ideas for the future.

The Australian Government recognises the vital role new knowledge and innovation plays in the economic, cultural and social advancement of a nation. In 2016-17 alone, the Australian Government invested over \$10 billion in science, research and innovation.

Australia has the capacity and capabilities to provide high-quality natural resources, food, education, tourism, and financial and professional services to the world.

The country's intellectual capital, commercial focus and collaborative approach make it an ideal partner for business, investment and collaborative activities. Australia has a strong record of innovation, underpinned by its significant government and private sector R&D investment and quality-enabling ICT infrastructure.

Australia is recognised globally for its high-quality research. Despite having only 0.3 per cent of the world's population, Australia contributed to almost four per cent of world research publications in 2016. Australia's universities perform very well in international rankings due to the quality of their research, and our science and research agencies are highly regarded. International collaboration boosts the citation performance of Australia and its partners.

Australia provides an excellent environment for international researchers and innovators, including high quality infrastructure and intellectual capital. Australia is highly multicultural and our organisations take pride in providing a supportive setting for international visitors.

All these features make Australia a destination of choice and a sought-after strategic partner.



*The impact of Australia's science and innovation is no more apparent than through the following innovations that have revolutionised the world:*

- Silicone hydrogel contact lenses, which account for around half of lenses fitted internationally
- Cochlear implant
- Cervical cancer vaccine
- Black box flight recorder
- Wi-Fi

## Australian Government policies and priorities

### *National Innovation and Science Agenda*

The National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) is the government's flagship innovation and science policy. It sets out Australia's vision for economic prosperity, driven by embracing new ideas in industry, science and innovation policy and harnessing new sources of growth. It is delivering \$1.1 billion worth of initiatives, and is built on four pillars:

- Culture and capital
- Collaboration
- Talent and skills
- Government as an exemplar

[innovation.gov.au](http://innovation.gov.au)

### *Innovation and Science Australia*

One of the initiatives in the NISA was the formation of Innovation and Science Australia (ISA), an independent statutory body with the remit to provide whole-of-government advice on all science, research and innovation matters. ISA's mission is the realisation of an ambitious vision for Australia's future, one in which science and innovation play a central role in securing our prosperity and addressing the great challenges of our times.

In order to guide Australia's approach, ISA is developing a strategic plan for improving and enhancing Australia's innovation, science and research system out to 2030.

[industry.gov.au/Innovation-and-Science-Australia](http://industry.gov.au/Innovation-and-Science-Australia)



Culture and capital

**Culture and capital:** helping businesses embrace risk and incentivising early stage investment in start-ups



Collaboration

**Collaboration:** increasing the level of engagement between businesses, universities and the research sector to commercialise ideas



Talent and skills

**Talent and skills:** training students for the jobs of the future and attracting the world's most innovative talent to Australia



Government as an exemplar

**Government as an exemplar:** leading by example in the way the Australian Government invests in and uses digital technology and data to deliver quality services

## *National Science Statement*

The National Science Statement sets out the Australian Government's vision for science in Australia and a strategic policy framework to guide future decision making in science.

The Statement demonstrates the government's commitment and long-term approach to having a strong and stable science system. This includes recognising the importance of international collaboration, and committing to strengthening and expanding Australia's strategic international science partnerships and programmes.

[science.gov.au/NSS](http://science.gov.au/NSS)



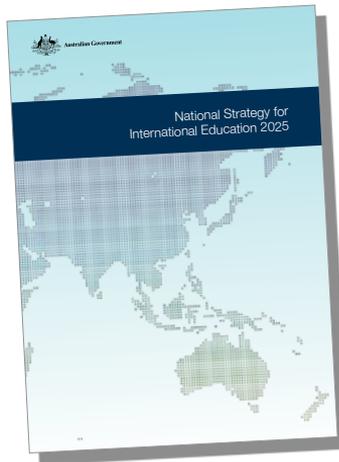


## *Global Innovation Strategy*

The Global Innovation Strategy is the key international measure under the NISA, providing an overarching framework to guide Australia's international industry, science and innovation collaboration.

The Strategy fosters and promotes global engagement on entrepreneurship and innovation, building strong research and business connections internationally. It is underpinned by funding initiatives that help Australians take their ideas to the world, and support international collaboration, particularly between researchers and industry.

[industry.gov.au/Global-Innovation-Strategy](http://industry.gov.au/Global-Innovation-Strategy)



## *National Strategy for International Education 2025*

Australia's National Strategy for International Education 2025 is driving collaboration in education and research.

The National Strategy is based on three broad pillars:

- strengthening the fundamentals of Australia's education, training and research system and the regulatory, quality assurance and consumer protection arrangements
- transformative partnerships between people, institutions and governments, at home and abroad
- competing globally by responding to global education and skills needs and taking advantage of emerging opportunities

[nsie.education.gov.au](http://nsie.education.gov.au)



Food



Cyber Security



Advanced Manufacturing



Soil and Water



Energy



Environmental Change



Transport



Resources



Health

### *Science and Research Priorities*

Australia has developed a set of national Science and Research Priorities to increase investment in areas of immediate and critical importance to Australia and its place in the world.

The priorities and associated practical research challenges are helping Australia's world-class science and research efforts to reflect the needs of industry, the economy and the community.

The nine priorities are: food, soil and water, transport, cyber security, energy, resources, advanced manufacturing, environmental change, and health.

[science.gov.au/scienceGov/ScienceAndResearchPriorities](https://science.gov.au/scienceGov/ScienceAndResearchPriorities)



**Food and Agribusiness**



**Medical Technologies and  
Pharmaceuticals**



**Mining Equipment,  
Technology and Services**



**Oil, Gas and Energy  
Resources**



**Advanced Manufacturing**



**Cyber Security**

### *Industry Growth Centres*

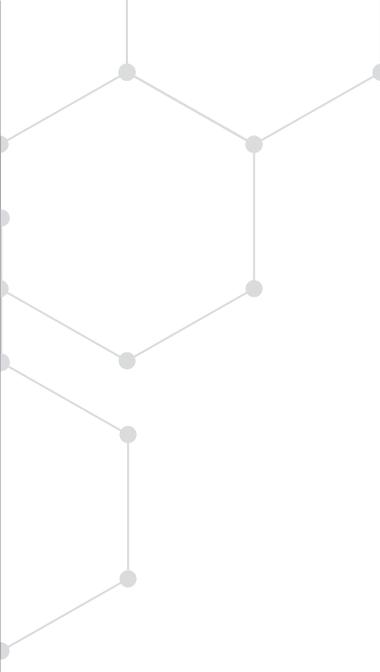
Australia has established six Industry Growth Centres to drive innovation, productivity and competitiveness and help Australia transition into smart, high value and export focused industries. Each Growth Centre engages with international markets and accesses global supply chains, as well as creating national and international collaborative opportunities. They are a key source of knowledge and network opportunities in each industry sector.

The six Growth Centres include:

- Food and Agribusiness
- Mining Equipment, Technology and Services
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals
- Oil, Gas and Energy Resources
- Cyber Security

[industry.gov.au/industry/Industry-Growth-Centres](http://industry.gov.au/industry/Industry-Growth-Centres)





## Who to partner with in Australia

### *National science and research agencies*

Australia has a diverse range of world-renowned government research organisations. These organisations conduct long-term, mission-led research in critical areas for Australia and the world. They have enduring international relationships and support research globally, including through their role as hosts for large-scale research infrastructure facilities and scientific collections.





## COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is Australia's national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world. CSIRO focuses on delivering positive impact from science and technology across disciplines in areas as diverse as agriculture, health, space science and manufacturing. CSIRO has 5000+ experts in 55 centres across the world. It has Australia's largest patent bank and more than 150 spin-off companies to date, transforming science and technology into commercial success that reinvents existing industries and creates new ones.

Overall, CSIRO is involved in over 500+ research activities in over 80 countries and is ranked in the top 1 per cent of world scientific institutions in 13 of 22 research fields. CSIRO collaborates with leading organisations around the world including governments, universities, research agencies and corporate partners, and is recognised for its ability to create measurable economic, environmental and social impact that answers the world's greatest challenges.

CSIRO hosts a number of Australia's national research facilities and scientific infrastructure. These research facilities and specialised laboratories are available to both international and Australian users from industry and research. Facilities include:

- Australia's Marine National Facility – a blue-water ocean research facility which enables world-class research in Australia's vast marine estate. Its marine research vessel, the RV *Investigator* is state-of-the-art, supporting atmospheric, oceanographic, biological and geosciences research from the tropical north to the Antarctic ice-edge
- Australian Animal Health Laboratory – one of only six high-containment animal research centres in the world, designed to allow scientific research into the most dangerous infectious agents



LEFT: Diver catching a rock lobster, CSIRO Marine Research. © CSIRO Science Image

## CASE STUDY - CSIRO

CSIRO's diverse scientific breakthroughs and inventions benefit billions of people around the world each day, in fields as diverse as health, manufacturing, mining and agriculture.

In the Biomedical Health sector CSIRO assisted **Medical Developments International (MDI)** in launching to a global market by lowering processing costs whilst increasing production of the acute pain killer Pentrox (commonly known as 'the green whistle').

MDI has seen its market value rise from less than \$10 million dollars in March 2010, to around \$290 million in 2017. Pentrox has now been approved for sale in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, France and Belgium and is expected to enter another 37 markets over the next two years, including Germany, Spain and Italy.

- Australia Telescope National Facility – one of the world's most advanced radio astronomy facilities, and the only one of its kind in the southern hemisphere
- Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex – part of NASA's Deep Space Network – an international network of antennas that supports interplanetary spacecraft missions and radio and radar astronomy observations for the exploration of the Solar System and the Universe

CSIRO partners with thousands of companies, research organisations and universities to develop and take new technologies to market and deliver positive impact for Australia and the world through partnerships, joint ventures, co-investing and licencing.

[csiro.au](http://csiro.au)



Australian Government



## AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

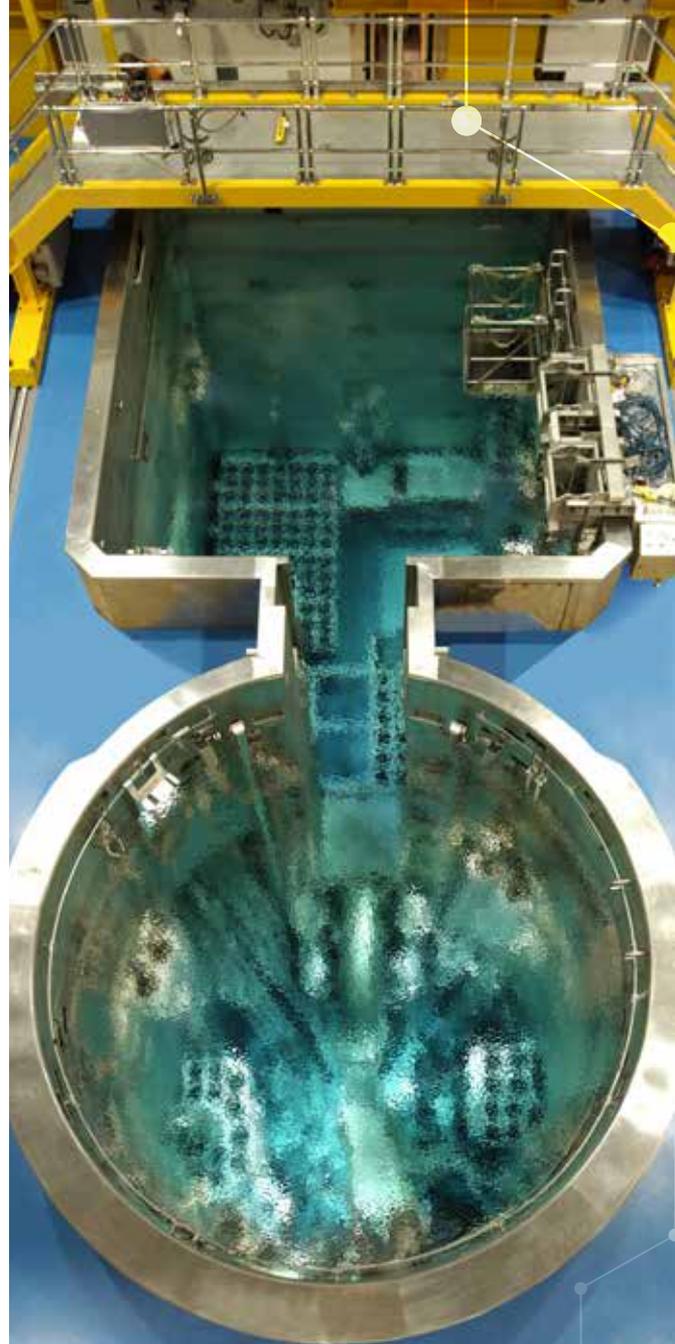
The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) is Australia's national nuclear research and development organisation and is the focus of nuclear expertise in Australia. It produces and uses radioisotopes, isotopic techniques and nuclear radiation for medicine, science, industry, commerce and agriculture.

ANSTO has collaborations, frequently interdisciplinary, with diverse international partners with a view to stimulating joint activities for the advancement of science and engineering and, subsequently, innovation.

ANSTO manages a number of unique research facilities, including the:

- Open Pool Australian Lightwater (OPAL) reactor - one of the world's most effective multi-purpose research reactors. The OPAL reactor is home to Australia's vital nuclear medicine manufacturing capabilities and specialised irradiation services for industry and research. Its neutron beams are used to solve complex research and industrial problems applicable in a wide range of fields, such as chemistry, physics, materials science, engineering, earth sciences, life sciences and cultural heritage.
- Australian Synchrotron - a world-class research facility that produces light (synchrotron radiation) many times brighter than the sun to see the invisible structure and composition of materials from the macroscopic to the atomic - with a level of detail, speed and accuracy not possible in conventional laboratories - for diverse scientific and industrial applications.
- Australian Centre for Accelerator Science - includes four operating accelerators used to analyse materials to determine their elemental composition and age, fundamental to advancing knowledge in areas such as water management, understanding ecosystems and climate science.

[ansto.gov.au](http://ansto.gov.au)





Australian Government



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE  
OF MARINE SCIENCE

## AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

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The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) is a leader in tropical marine science and, through strong collaborative links nationally and internationally, coordinates and delivers large-scale, long-term world-class marine research. AIMS scientists are involved in collaborative projects conducted in 26 different countries with colleagues from over 64 international organisations.

State-of-the-art infrastructure allows research and industry partners to further the collective knowledge of Australia's unique marine ecosystems and the challenges they face.

The AIMS National Sea Simulator (SeaSim) is a world-class marine research aquarium facility for tropical marine organisms in which scientists can conduct cutting-edge research. Using SeaSim, Australian and international scientists can research the impact of complex environmental changes with large, long-term, experiments in which they can manipulate key environmental factors.

The AIMS research fleet provides access to all of Australia's tropical marine environments. Two large purpose-built ships, the RV *Cape Ferguson* and the RV *Solander*, and a number of smaller vessels, take researchers to the diverse habitats that make up Australia's tropical marine environment.

[aims.gov.au](https://aims.gov.au)



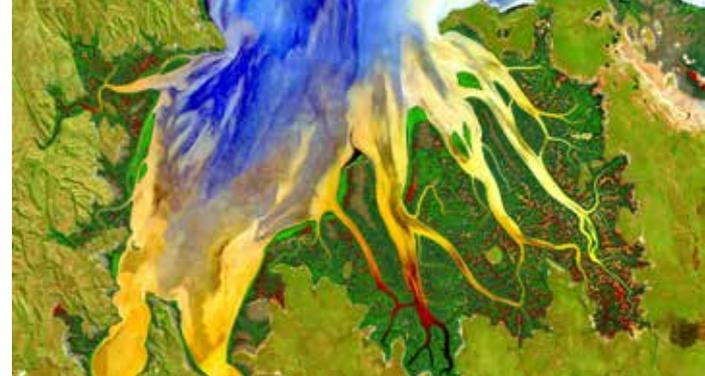
## GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

Geoscience Australia (GA) is Australia's pre-eminent public sector geoscience organisation and the nation's trusted advisor on the geology and geography of Australia. GA undertakes geoscientific research and maintains, develops and encourages access to geoscientific and geospatial data.

GA's work supports a diverse range of topics, including resource development, natural hazards such as tsunamis and earthquakes, environmental issues, including the impacts of climate change, groundwater research, marine and coastal research, carbon capture and storage and vegetation monitoring. GA's remit also extends beyond the Australian landmass to Australia's vast marine jurisdiction.

Australia's position on the globe places it in an ideal spot to assist in acquiring satellite data for northern hemisphere satellite operators to obtain comprehensive earth observation coverage. GA plays an important role in global earth observation operations through international collaboration.

[ga.gov.au](http://ga.gov.au)



## DATA CUBE

Australia is leading the world in the innovative application of 'big data' techniques to satellite data for monitoring and detecting change in the environment. Geoscience Australia, CSIRO and Australia's National Computational Infrastructure have developed the Australian Geoscience Data Cube (Data Cube). This new approach to storing, organising and analysing massive volumes of satellite data is generating fundamentally new insights into the Australian environment.

The Data Cube is a series of structures and tools that calibrate and standardise datasets, enabling the rapid development of quantitative information products, such as [Water Observations from Space](#). It is designed to help both governments and private industry make informed decisions on issues such as sustainably managing the environment, developing resources, and optimising agricultural potential.

Australia is working with organisations internationally to support adoption of this approach in more regions around the world.

[datacube.org.au/home](http://datacube.org.au/home)



**Australian Government**

**Department of Defence**

Science and Technology

## DEFENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP

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The Defence Science and Technology Group is the Australian Government's lead agency responsible for applying science and technology to safeguard Australia and its national interests.

DST works closely with industry, universities and the scientific community to support Australia's defence and national security capabilities. An example is the \$730 million (over ten years) [Next Generation Technologies Fund](#), which will be delivered via collaborative programs with academia, publicly funded research agencies, industry (particularly small medium enterprises) and Australia's allies.

Once such collaborative program is the \$25 million (over nine years) [US-Australia International Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative \(AUSMURI\)](#), which provides grants to support multi-disciplinary teams of Australian university researchers who collaborate with US academic colleagues on high priority projects for future Defence capabilities.

DST pursues active collaboration with defence and national security communities of interest nationally and internationally.

[dst.defence.gov.au](http://dst.defence.gov.au)



**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Meteorology**

## BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

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The Bureau of Meteorology has an ongoing commitment to world-class research that supports and advances the quality, breadth, timeliness and utility of its products and services. The Bureau research and development team's overarching goal is to provide underpinning science and technology for environmental information to support decision-making over timescales from minutes to decades.

The Bureau's climate research and weather services have high-value applications in the aviation, maritime, defence, emergency management, and agriculture sectors.

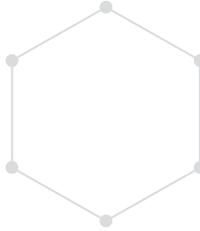
The Bureau has many national and international partners and partnerships, in research, development and delivering science into service. Through formal representation at national and international levels the Bureau contributes valued advice and direction across environmental domains.

[bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)





**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment and Energy**  
Australian Antarctic Division



## AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DIVISION

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The Australian Antarctic Division based in Hobart, Tasmania is responsible for the advancement of Australia's strategic, scientific, environmental and economic interests in the Antarctic by protecting, administering and researching the region.

It does this by leading, coordinating and delivering the Australian Antarctic Program, which is focused on conducting world-class science of critical national importance and global significance. The Australian Antarctic Program utilises combined sea, air and continental transport capabilities to undertake wide-ranging marine, ice and aviation-based research activities.

Australia works collaboratively with the Antarctic programs of many other nations to share expertise and logistics in the support of projects aimed at answering some of the major science questions of our time.

[antarctica.gov.au](http://antarctica.gov.au)



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science**



## AUSTRALIAN ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY

Highly regarded internationally, the Australian Astronomical Observatory (AAO) is Australia's national optical and infrared observatory.

The AAO's mission is to provide advanced state-of-the-art optical and infrared observing facilities that allow Australian astronomers to conduct world-leading science. It operates the 3.9m Anglo-Australian Telescope and the 1.2m UK Schmidt Telescope and manages access to large international telescopes on behalf of the astronomical community.

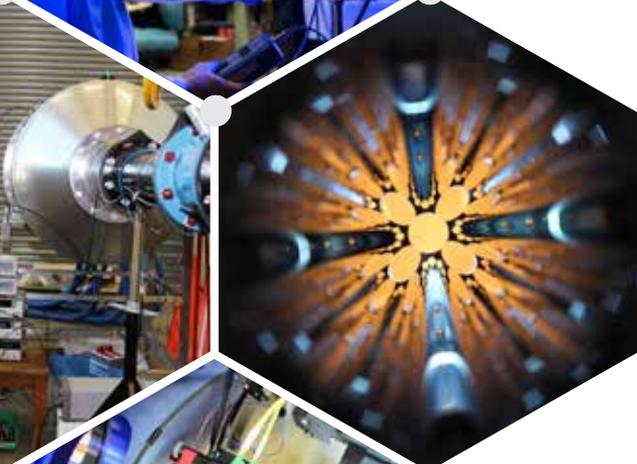
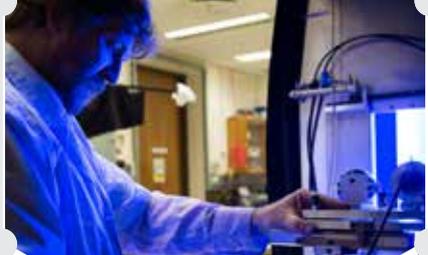
Astronomy research and instrumentation projects are driven by international collaboration, which maximises access to and input from the expertise of world leaders in this highly specialised area. The AAO is recognised internationally for its outstanding and innovative technology development program. International engagement is thus a core and integral part of the AAO's business activities.

The AAO plays a key role in global projects through:

- instrumentation development for major telescope facilities internationally
- high impact scientific research and world-leading astronomical sky survey programs
- world-class high performance computing
- software capability that enables processing and delivery of large data sets

[aao.gov.au](http://aao.gov.au)





**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science**

## **National Measurement Institute**

### NATIONAL MEASUREMENT INSTITUTE

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The National Measurement Institute (NMI) is Australia's 'one-stop shop' and peak body for measurement. Sitting at the interface between national and international systems, NMI ensures the international credibility of Australia's measurement infrastructure, thereby reducing technical barriers to trade, enabling innovation and supporting investment.

Through research collaborations with international counterparts, NMI fosters innovation in fields such as advanced manufacturing and enabling technologies, and helps address 21st Century measurement challenges in sectors such as energy, health and food security.

NMI uses its international engagements to strengthen its broad range of scientific and technical capabilities and associated delivery of expertise and services to all sectors of the economy.

[measurement.gov.au](http://measurement.gov.au)



## UNIVERSITIES

World-leading research occurs at universities of all shapes and sizes throughout Australia, spanning the sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities. All of Australia's universities – 40 Australian and two international – engage in research. Many universities have campuses in other countries, and strengthening research connections is a specific objective. Universities in Australia attach high importance to fostering international relationships, working hard to build trust and shared expertise.

Universities Australia (UA) is the peak body that represents Australian universities both nationally and internationally, with 39 universities current members. UA acts to influence national policy in ways that affirm Australia's position as a highly innovative, educated and globally oriented nation.

While all universities pursue their own international relationships, UA has an important role in fostering global research and innovation collaboration on behalf of its members

Its publication, [World-leading research in Australia's universities](#), provides a snapshot of the range of exciting and innovative research being undertaken in universities in Australia and highlights collaborative opportunities. UA's website includes the details of key contacts within each university.

To further promote the benefits of university research, UA has undertaken a public awareness campaign titled [Keep it Clever](#), which showcases outstanding projects in universities.

[universitiesaustralia.edu.au](http://universitiesaustralia.edu.au)

Just over half of Australia's universities are also part of groups formed to promote the mutual objectives of their member universities, including building international collaboration:

- Group of Eight – [go8.edu.au](http://go8.edu.au)
- Australian Technology Network of Universities – [atn.edu.au](http://atn.edu.au)
- Innovative Research Universities – [iru.edu.au](http://iru.edu.au)
- Regional Universities Network – [run.edu.au](http://run.edu.au)





Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), which is managed by the Australian Research Council (ARC), is a comprehensive and detailed evaluation of the quality of Australia's university research. The most recent [ERA report](#) demonstrates the breadth, depth and diversity of high-quality university research across the sciences, engineering, arts and humanities. Through the [ERA outcomes comparison tool](#)—which shows performance in each specific research discipline for each Australian university—international researchers and businesses can identify precise areas of research excellence and possible opportunities for future research partnerships.

## BUSINESS

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Businesses account for the highest proportion of research expenditure in Australia. Australia has world leading innovative industries and companies in areas such as biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, clean energy, finance, mining technologies and agriculture.

Australia also has a strong home-grown tech sector, with start-ups and entrepreneurs being a large contributor to new jobs and innovation in Australia.

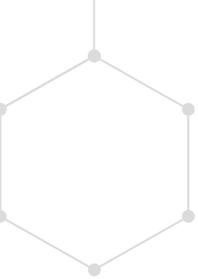
The Australian Government supports business innovation through the [Research and Development Tax Incentive](#), which provides broad based, market driven assistance for all industries.

International partners have numerous opportunities to collaborate with Australian companies, invest in or incorporate Australian solutions into existing products and services, or enter into joint ventures to take Australian technologies to the global market. Australia has expertise at every stage of the global value chain, from the extraction and processing of raw materials, to the development and production of new materials, to design, testing and manufacture.

Austrade, Australia's trade and investment commission, is an excellent first point-of-contact for international organisations seeking to build partnerships and invest in Australia's innovative businesses.

Its publication, [Australia: Destination Innovation](#), highlights Australia's strengths and the wide range of opportunities.

[austrade.gov.au](http://austrade.gov.au)



## OTHER PARTNERS

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There is a range of other science, research and innovation organisations in Australia that present opportunities for international collaboration. These organisations often bring partners together to respond to particular questions or areas of research. Key groupings of these organisations include:

- Medical research institutes – providing a direct link between laboratory-based research and clinical practice – [aamri.org.au/](http://aamri.org.au/)
- Cooperative Research Centres – industry-led research partnerships between business, publicly funded researchers and the community – [business.gov.au/assistance/cooperative-research-centres-programme/cooperative-research-centres-crcs-grants/crcs-information](http://business.gov.au/assistance/cooperative-research-centres-programme/cooperative-research-centres-crcs-grants/crcs-information)
- Rural research and development corporations – industry-government partnerships covering most aspects of agriculture, fisheries and forestry – [ruralrdc.com.au/](http://ruralrdc.com.au/)
- Australian Research Council Centres of Excellence – prestigious foci of expertise building critical mass to address the most challenging and significant research problems – [arc.gov.au/arc-centres-excellence](http://arc.gov.au/arc-centres-excellence)
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Centres of Research Excellence – teams of researchers developing capacity in clinical, population health and health services research – [nhmrc.gov.au/grants-funding/apply-funding/centres-research-excellence-cre](http://nhmrc.gov.au/grants-funding/apply-funding/centres-research-excellence-cre)

To increase collaboration and commercialisation of intellectual property, IP Australia has developed Source IP – a digital marketplace specifically created to help businesses and researchers collaborate by facilitating quick and easy contact. Source IP helps businesses access public sector inventions and technology available for licensing, and to identify potential collaboration opportunities.

With Source IP, users can search through the research that's already been started by Australia's public sector research organisations and contact the researchers of interest. Source IP currently features research expertise from over 60 research organisations including national science and research agencies, universities, Medical Research Institutes and Cooperative Research Centres.

[sourceip.ipaustralia.gov.au](http://sourceip.ipaustralia.gov.au)







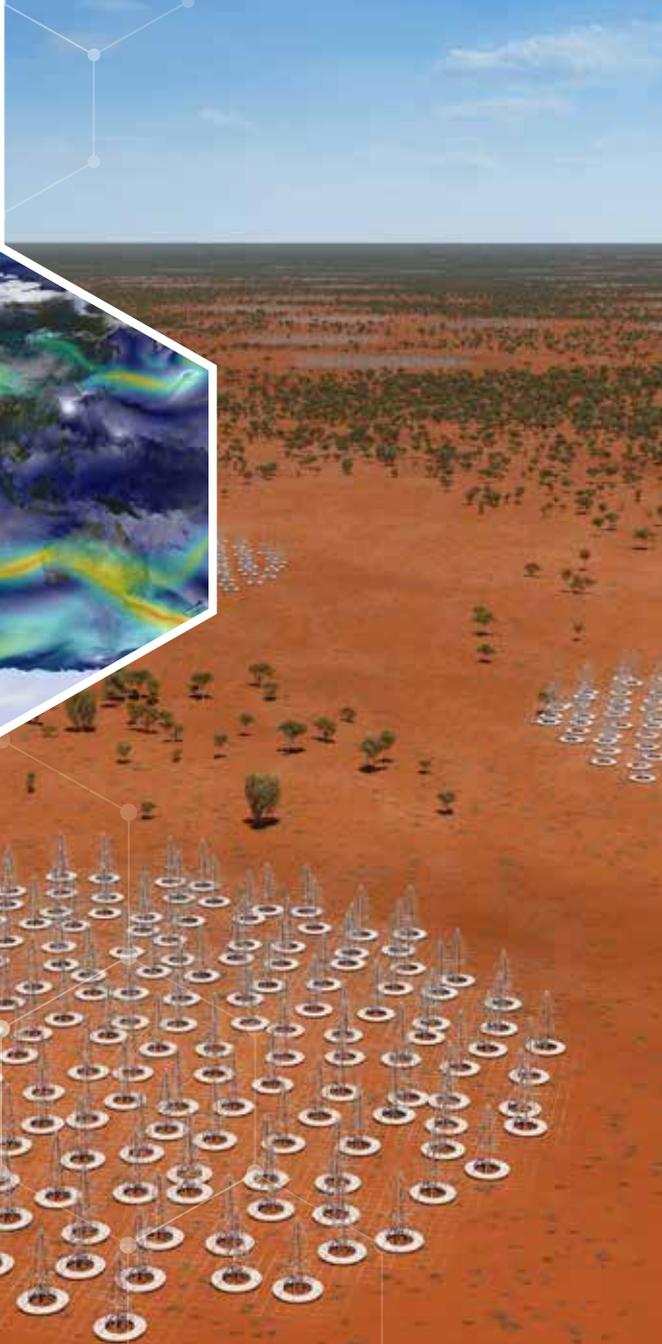
## Research infrastructure supporting collaboration

Australia's strategic investment in research infrastructure has provided a platform for collaboration. Through nationally and internationally networked facilities and projects, researchers from differing disciplines come together to tackle the challenges that face Australia and the world. These facilities, along with their specialist staff support cross disciplinary research and collaborations with small, innovative companies and major multinationals, including trialling new technologies and services.

The facilities and projects supported through Australia's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) underpins research excellence and collaboration between universities, research institutes, government and industry to deliver research excellence and practical outcomes. NCRIS supports international collaboration through facilities and projects covering capabilities such as high performance computing, data, environmental and earth monitoring, characterisation, advanced fabrication and instrumentation, biology and therapeutic development and astronomy. For information on the NCRIS network and collaboration see – [education.gov.au/funded-research-infrastructure-projects](https://www.education.gov.au/funded-research-infrastructure-projects).

The national facilities hosted by Australia's government research organisations are world-renowned and are highlighted in the earlier section 'Who to partner with in Australia'.





International engagement is a critical element of Australia's research infrastructure landscape. Researchers need access to domestic and international world-class research infrastructure necessary to drive internationally significant and leading research results.

Australia has a strong history as a partner and leader in international activities. Many Australian research infrastructure facilities and projects are involved in international collaborations, including the Global Ocean Observing System, the Giant Magellan Telescope, the Global Bioimaging Project and the Research Data Alliance.

Australia is also one of two hosts for the Square Kilometre Array, or SKA – a global next-generation radio telescope project involving institutions from over 20 countries. The SKA will be the largest and most capable radio telescope ever constructed. During its 50+ year lifetime, it will expand our understanding of the universe and drive significant economic, scientific and technological development worldwide.

Australia has entered into a 10-year Strategic Partnership with the European Southern Observatory (ESO), starting from 1 January 2018. ESO is widely acknowledged to be the world's foremost astronomical organisation, operating a suite of world-class optical and infrared telescopes at multiple sites in Chile, at the world's most suitable optical observing locations.

The Strategic Partnership with ESO will open up new avenues for scientific and industry collaboration between Australia and other ESO member states.



## Collaboration support

There are a range of Australian Government programmes supporting international science, research and innovation collaboration, and details of the major schemes are outlined in the following section. It is recommended that individuals and organisations looking for opportunities to collaborate with Australia first find a suitable partner or partners.

The Australian Government provides significant support to businesses, universities and research for their science, research and innovation activities, including international collaboration, so many Australian partners may be able to self-finance their participation.

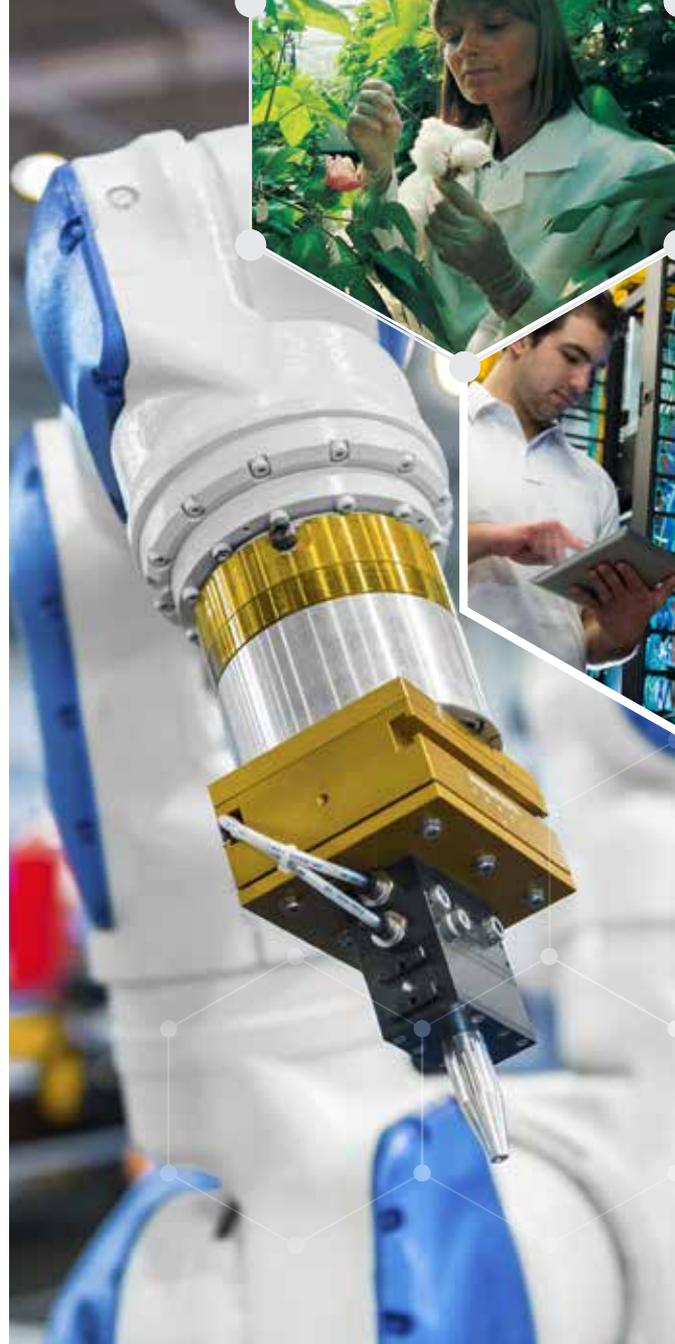
International and multilateral organisations also provide significant support for international collaboration on global challenges.

### AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

The Australian Research Council (ARC) is Australia's main funding agency for research grants and provides a variety of opportunities to support international research collaboration in all disciplines (although clinical and other medical research are primarily supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council). All ARC funding schemes are open to international researchers, provided applications are made through an eligible Australian institution.

The ARC's funding schemes include support for fundamental research, fellowships and collaborative research with industry, government and the community.

[arc.gov.au/information-international-researchers](http://arc.gov.au/information-international-researchers)





## NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research. NHMRC funding supports research across the full spectrum of health and medical research, from basic science through to clinical, public health and health services research.

NHMRC supports international engagement through a number of mechanisms, including:

- engaging in bilateral and multilateral funding arrangements
- permitting overseas based researchers on research grants
- allowing early career researchers to undertake advanced training at an overseas research institution
- influencing global research policies as a member of both international organisations and coordination fora
- supporting Australian researchers to access international programs

The *NHMRC International Engagement Strategy 2016-2019* outlines NHMRC's approach to working with its international partners over the three years.

[nhmrc.gov.au/research/international-engagement](http://nhmrc.gov.au/research/international-engagement)



## MEDICAL RESEARCH FUTURE FUND

The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) provides grants to support health and medical research and innovation aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Australians. Building to a \$20 billion perpetual fund, providing annual disbursements of \$1 billion by 2022-23, the MRFF represents a doubling of Australia's commitment to health and medical research.

As well as improving the health of current and future generations through better health policies, technologies and medicines, the MRFF will drive economic outcomes by improving workforce participation and productivity. Recognising the value of international partnerships, the MRFF can co-invest with other public and private funders, domestic and global.

[health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mrff](https://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mrff)

Australia is also acknowledged internationally as a location of choice for high quality, safe clinical trials. Under the MRFF Australia is increasing public investment in clinical trial activity and research capacity to ensure Australia is at the forefront of testing, translation and commercialising new treatments, drugs and devices and remains an attractive location for national and international clinical trial activity.

[australianclinicaltrials.gov.au](https://australianclinicaltrials.gov.au)





## COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRES PROGRAMME

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The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Programme supports industry-led and outcome-focused collaborative research partnerships. There are two streams of funding under the programme: CRCs and CRC Projects (CRC-Ps). CRCs are long term collaborations of up to 10 years with no maximum limit to funding. CRC-Ps are short-term collaborations of up to 3 years with a maximum of \$3 million in funding.

CRCs commonly have dozens of participating organisations: universities and research institutions; businesses from multinational corporations to small and medium enterprises; governments at all levels; not-for-profit organisations and industry and community associations. The majority of CRCs have strong international collaborations and many have international participants.

[business.gov.au/assistance/cooperative-research-centres-programme](https://business.gov.au/assistance/cooperative-research-centres-programme)

## RURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

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Rural research and development (R&D) corporations are the Australian Government's main vehicle for funding rural innovation. R&D corporations are a partnership between the government and industry created to share the funding and strategic direction setting for primary industry R&D investment and adoption. The R&D corporations commission and manage targeted investment in research, innovation, knowledge creation and extension. They include corporations devoted to the grains, horticulture, wine, sugar, cotton, red meat, pork, egg, dairy, wool, fisheries and forestry industries, as well as other industries covered by the Rural Industries R&D Corporation.

[agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/innovation](https://agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/innovation)

## GLOBAL INNOVATION STRATEGY INITIATIVES

### Global Innovation Linkages

The Global Innovation Linkages programme supports Australian businesses and researchers to collaborate with global partners on strategically focused, leading-edge research and development projects. It supports projects focused on developing high quality products, services or processes that respond to industry challenges, with funding of up to \$1 million per grant over a maximum period of four years.

[business.gov.au/assistance/global-innovation-linkages-programme](https://business.gov.au/assistance/global-innovation-linkages-programme)

### Global Connections Fund

The Global Connections Fund supports global SME-to-researcher collaborations to enable viable projects to grow and test commercialisation in industries of strategic growth in Australia.

There are two types of grants under the Fund:

- **Bridging Grants** – grants of up to \$50,000 designed as seed funding capital to enable viable projects to grow in scope and scale, test commercialisation and proof-of-concept activities.
- **Priming Grants** – grants of around \$7,000 to enable Australian SMEs and Australian researchers to meet and collaborate with international partners to further develop their ideas.

[globalconnectionsfund.org.au](https://globalconnectionsfund.org.au)

### Regional Collaborations Programme

The Regional Collaborations Programme assists Australian researchers and businesses to build strong linkages in the Asia-Pacific region by funding multi-partner science, research and innovation activities that deliver innovative solutions to shared regional challenges. These activities will, in turn, reduce collaboration barriers and promote an open approach to science, research and industry collaboration throughout the Asia-Pacific.

Funding support is available for single or multi-year collaborative projects, as well as collaborative workshops.

[science.org.au/regional-collaborations-programme](https://science.org.au/regional-collaborations-programme)





## AUSTRALIA-CHINA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH FUND

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The Australia-China Science and Research Fund (ACSRF) supports strategic science, technology and innovation collaboration of mutual benefit to Australia and China. The ACSRf builds critical mass in areas of strategic priority and supports enduring partnerships between Australian and Chinese researchers.

The ACSRf facilitates activities that encourage the application and commercialisation of research outcomes to the mutual benefit of both countries and provide early career researchers the opportunity to gain relevant Australia-China research experience.

[science.gov.au/acsrf](https://science.gov.au/acsrf)

## AUSTRALIA-INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND

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The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) helps Australian researchers from public and private sectors to participate with Indian scientists in leading-edge scientific research projects and workshops. The AISRF increases collaboration between Australian and Indian researchers and builds longer-term alliances between Australian and Indian research organisations.

The AISRF supports collaborative projects, targeted workshops and early and mid-career research fellowships.

[science.gov.au/aisrf](https://science.gov.au/aisrf)



## Investing in Australian start-ups and businesses

The Australian Government, under the NISA, has put in place a range of programmes to help Australian businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs take their ideas to the world and attract investment from international partners. Australia's Industry Growth Centres are playing a key role in this work, linking in to global supply chains and facilitating investment in new technologies and ways of doing business.

Australia is also seeking to attract top entrepreneurs, innovators and investors through its visa and tax arrangements.

### LANDING PADS

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As part of Australia's Global Innovation Strategy, Austrade have established Landing Pads in Berlin, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore and Tel Aviv.

Landing Pads provide market-ready Australian start-ups with access to some of the world's most renowned innovation and startup ecosystems. This initiative enables start-ups to rapidly fine-tune their pitch, commercialise their offering, identify partners, customers and investors, and access global markets.

The Landing Pads also provide an easy access point for international partners seeking to invest in Australian ideas and technologies.

[australiaunlimited.com/landing-pads](https://australiaunlimited.com/landing-pads)





## INCUBATOR SUPPORT PROGRAMME

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Incubators help innovative start-ups to rapidly transform their ideas into globally competitive businesses by providing mentorship, funding, resources, knowledge and access to business networks. The Incubator Support Programme is helping new and existing incubators in Australia to expand their services, mature their innovation ecosystems and develop new incubators in regions or sectors with high potential.

The programme also supports incubators to bring in top quality research, managerial and technical talent by seconding national or international expert advisers, in order to assist Australian start-ups improve their chance of commercial success in international markets.

[business.gov.au/assistance/incubator-support](https://business.gov.au/assistance/incubator-support)

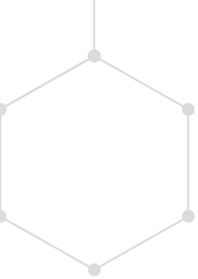
## ACCELERATING COMMERCIALISATION PROGRAMME

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The Accelerating Commercialisation programme provides expert guidance, connections and financial support to assist small and medium businesses, entrepreneurs and researchers to find the right commercialisation solutions for their novel product, process or service.

An important feature of Accelerating Commercialisation for international investors is the creation of a portfolio of Australian businesses that are undertaking early stage commercialisation activities. The portfolio provides its members with visibility and credibility for investors, other entrepreneurs, domain experts, supply chains and strategic corporations.

[business.gov.au/assistance/accelerating-commercialisation](https://business.gov.au/assistance/accelerating-commercialisation)



## BUSINESS INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Australia's Business Innovation and Investment Programme is designed to increase entrepreneurial talent and diversify business expertise in Australia. There are a number of visa classes with specific streams, including the:

- Entrepreneur stream: for people who have a funding agreement from a third party to undertake a complying entrepreneurial activity that is proposed to lead to either the commercialisation of a product or service in Australia or the development of a business in Australia.
- Business Innovation stream: for people with business skills who want to establish, develop and manage a new or existing business in Australia.
- Investor, Significant and Premium Investor streams: for people who want to make a designated investment, and maintain business and investment activity in Australia.

[border.gov.au/about/corporate/information/fact-sheets/27business](https://border.gov.au/about/corporate/information/fact-sheets/27business)

## BIOMEDICAL TRANSLATION FUND

The Biomedical Translation Fund (BTF) is a \$500 million equity co-investment venture capital programme designed to support early stage investee companies that are developing and commercialising biomedical discoveries. The government has provided \$250 million which has been matched by private sector capital.

The BTF will help translate biomedical discoveries into tangible products, services and outcomes to deliver long term health benefits and economic outcomes.

While there are stipulations on both the fund managers and eligible investee companies to be Australian-based, there is opportunity for international investors to participate in the BTF by providing the fund managers with capital for investment.

[business.gov.au/btf](https://business.gov.au/btf)





## OTHER VENTURE CAPITAL PROGRAMMES

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Equity and early stage finance is crucial for commercialising new ideas and encouraging new start ups. Australia is providing incentives to encourage more investment in innovative start-ups.

The Australian Government has a suite of venture capital programmes such as the:

- Early Stage Venture Capital Limited Partnerships (ESVCLP) – [business.gov.au/assistance/early-stage-venture-capital-limited-partnership](https://business.gov.au/assistance/early-stage-venture-capital-limited-partnership)
- Venture Capital Limited Partnerships (VCLP) – [business.gov.au/assistance/venture-capital-limited-partnerships](https://business.gov.au/assistance/venture-capital-limited-partnerships)

These programmes provide investors a globally recognised investment vehicle with flow-through tax treatment (i.e. the partnership is not a taxing point) and tax exemptions on their share of the fund's income (under the VCLP programme the exemption is limited to non-residents).

There are also tax incentives for individuals investing directly into innovative early stage companies.



## Connecting individuals

Collaboration is built on the foundation of personal connections. Without these connections, trustful and impactful international partnerships are not possible. Australia is supporting people-to-people connections through a range of initiatives, including many highlighted in earlier sections of this document.

### AUSTRALIA AWARDS

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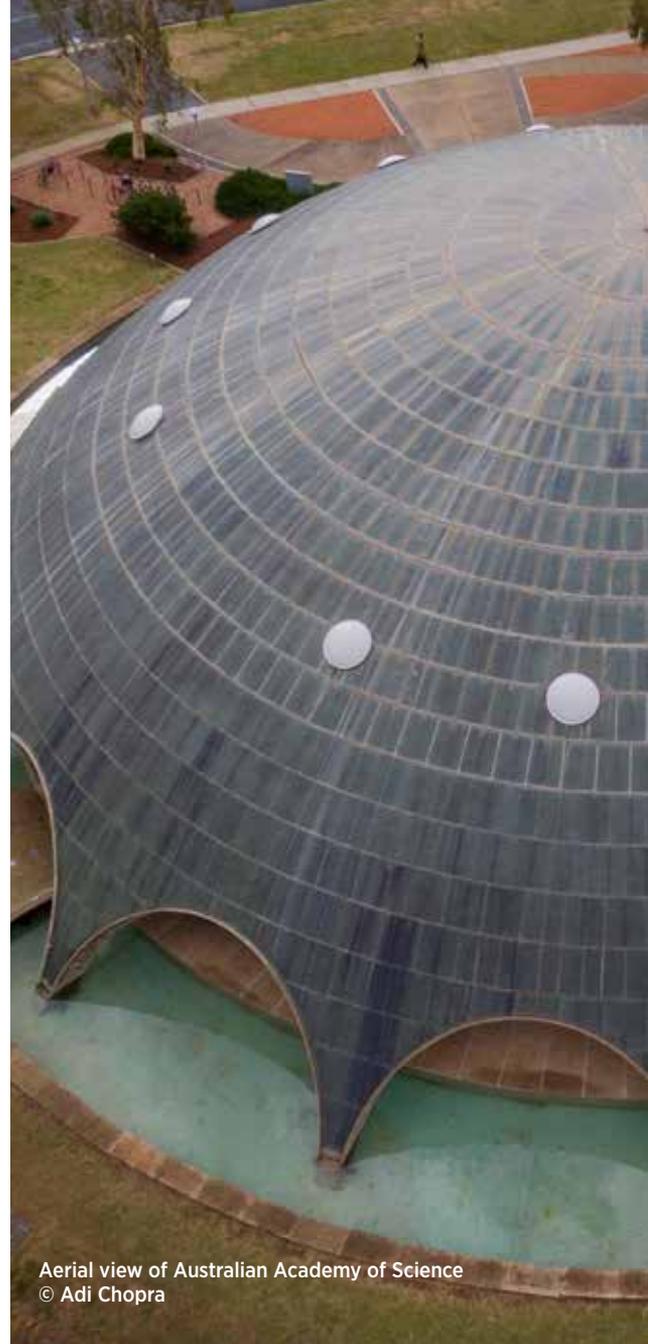
The Australia Awards are a whole-of-government initiative bringing together scholarships and fellowships and short courses administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Department of Education and Training. They offer the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia and for high-achieving Australians to do the same overseas.

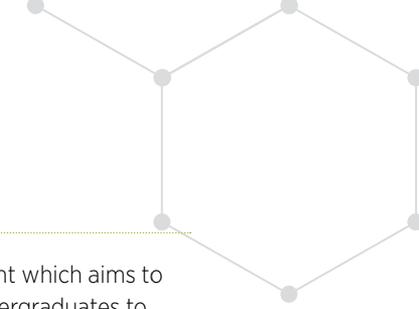
[australiaawards.gov.au](http://australiaawards.gov.au)

### Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarships, Fellowships and Mobility Grants

The Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships and Endeavour Mobility Grants support two-way engagement between Australia and the rest of the world. The scholarships and fellowships provide life changing opportunities for Australian and overseas students and professionals to access learning and research opportunities globally. This opportunity is offered to both post graduates and vocational students to undertake study, research or professional development opportunities. The mobility grants support engagement between Australian and overseas institutions and organisations through study abroad and student exchange programs for masters, bachelor and vocational students.

[internationaleducation.gov.au/Endeavour](http://internationaleducation.gov.au/Endeavour)





## NEW COLOMBO PLAN

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The New Colombo Plan is a signature initiative of the Australian Government which aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by supporting Australian undergraduates to study and undertake internships in the region.

Private sector partnerships are central to the program's ability to provide meaningful, course-related work experiences. There are opportunities for private sector organisations, including research institutions and businesses in the region to host Australian scholars and students.

[dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/new-colombo-plan](https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/new-colombo-plan)

## AUSTRALIA GLOBAL ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016-2020

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The Australia Global Alumni Engagement Strategy is promoting connections with and among alumni as they progress through their careers, providing opportunities for professional development, shared research and strengthened business connections.

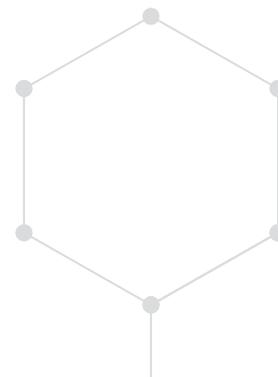
[dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-global-alumni-engagement-strategy-2016-2020.aspx](https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-global-alumni-engagement-strategy-2016-2020.aspx)

## AUSTRALIAN LEARNED ACADEMIES

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Australia's Learned Academies play a critical role in promoting international engagement and providing opportunities for researchers and innovators to connect with counterparts globally:

- Australian Academy of Science – [science.org.au](https://science.org.au)
- Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering – [atse.org.au](https://atse.org.au)
- Australian Academy of Social Sciences – [assa.edu.au](https://assa.edu.au)
- Australian Academy of Humanities – [humanities.org.au](https://humanities.org.au)







[www.industry.gov.au](http://www.industry.gov.au)  
[www.science.gov.au](http://www.science.gov.au)  
[www.innovation.gov.au](http://www.innovation.gov.au)